

deathvalleydriver



videoreview



number137



(Cover designed by young Arizonian Marc Manning)

JAMES MASON! vs. HIDEKI NISHIDA! is so amazingly MATASTIC! TAKANOS! not named GEORGE! The WWF! meets JAPAN! some more! BELIEVE! the following words: MASAHIRO CHONO! vs. DAVE SULLIVAN! DAVEY BOY SMITH! SUPER 8! CAROLINA DEATHMATCH! FEEL IT DADDY!

Hiya

Welcome to the Death Valley Driver Video Review

Phil Rippa - IQ of 6. I forgot like three Dean's reviews from DVDVR #136. Of course, Dean wrote so much, he didn't realize they were missing for a couple of days. So, here ya go. DVDVR #137 in under a week. We are fucking wild. We honor (sorta) the recently departed Davey Boy Smith with Wrestler of the Week status. Plus, there is the first time ever, real time chat review. This is pretty giant for just two men. Print it out. Kill a tree.

~!~

MICHINOKU PRO (11/4/2001) - PART ONE

(by DEAN RASMUSSEN)

Kendo vs. Pantera

I'm an idiot, just ask my wife. I can't figure out who would be the oldest between Pantera and Kendo, though Kendo used to be Black Man back when Jeff Amdur was living in Mexico. And Jeff is old enough to be my dad so I'm assuming Kendo is older. Lucha codgerdom is sure sign of ultimate ruleosity at this point in all of our lives. I think Kendo is Negro Navarro's great uncle because he is really rocking it on the mat and in the air in this until Big Daddy Time comes down from his throne on Mount Olympus and says, "YOUR BREATH! I WILL TAKE IT FROM YOUUUUUUU!" and Kendo blows up like a beachball, like an inflatable raft, like me trying to tie my shoes.... Anyhoos, Pantera looks game to make it a special match but Kendo has the empty

tank- but has enough to hit his highspots. Pantera bumps around the ring for him as the exhausted Kendo can't take it the mat again. Pantera does the fabulous corner apron through two set of ropes catacornered tope that I love so much. Kendo then comes back with the peppiest ball-crushing double dropkick into the corner that you will ever see. Pantera- a gelding it seems- goes straight into La Tapitia. Kendo reverses it and tries to go for my 70 year old uncle giving my 70 year old uncle La Majistral but Pantera reverses it into an anklelock for the win.

Yone & Tsubo Genjin vs. Chi-Nen Hokkai/Pantera

The unretired Yone Genjin looks as unannoying as he ever has - what with him going all Lucha with Pantera before the comedy spots kicked in, allowing Yone and Tsubo probe the orifices of the Mexican legend and his partner, Chi-Nen Hokkai. Chi-Nen Hokkai is quite the Dusty Wolfe of MP but he does have little yellow pants with the DEATH RAYS shooting out of his Jiminy Winkie Area- as if to say, "I may not win this match, my Austropithican opponents, but I will take your cave bitches to the back of my Coupe DeVille AND FUCK THEM UNTIL THEY MAKE ME A BREAKFAST OF TWIGS AND SQUIRREL PELTS TOMORROW MORNING! GOT IT, CAVE-DWELLING MOTHERFUCKERS! GOOD!". Yone does the nastiest version of Damien 666's Shoulder-to-Shoulder Dropdown HOLD on our bald pasty lothario and it fucking rocks.

In the next match Tsubo Genjin bonks some kid with his caveman bone coming to the ring. That was the highlight. I'm in the Eternal chat and I try to lure Rippa into calling me to SYNCH up to the balls out James Mason vs Nishida match. So I turn off the tape player machine just as Mason enters the ring with his ultrafly sparkly Union Jack jacket. I will lure him into synching later.

~!~

All Japan Classics #96

(by DEAN RASMUSSEN and PHIL RIPPA)

In an effort to avoid the Raw Chat, Dean and I were looked for something to synch up and review. Half the battle was not knowing but instead finding a tape that we could watch. The rejected selections this time:

Complete Players – Dean lent tape to Tim Noel

Carlos Colon vs. Tully Blanchard – Dean lent the tape to his brother.

Brusier Brody vs. John Nord – WINDY CITY BABY! On same tape that Randy Rasmussen is gleefully watching

Maverick Wild vs. Doug Williams – All three matches already reviewed by Rippa

All Japan Classics #40 – Rippa's tape was mislabelled and instead contained the AJ Classics that had Butch Reed vs. Dory Funk, Jr. and Mike Graham vs. Ric Flair.

The AJ Classics show that had Butch Reed vs. Dory Funk, Jr. and Mike Graham vs. Ric Flair – Dean has no idea where that tape might be

JoMosh Comp #3 – Dean taped over his copy

WrestleExpress – Rippa's copy is in Dean's possession

JoMosh Comp #4 – Dean taped over his copy

Scott Decker Comps – Rippa has all of Dean's copies for some unknown reason

NOAH – Dean hates NOAH

Best of Necro Butcher – Rasmussen refuses to send Rippa the tape

Finally, Dean stumbles upon the Lynch tape that I sent him. It contains All Japan Classics #96 & #97 (which has the Malenkos vs. Fantastics match. WATCH IT NOW!!!! We will wait.) and various Jushin Liger mauls Canadians. Since my wife is tying up the phone, I cajole Dean into writing the review in real time while in the chat. That way we can just cut & paste the carnage afterwards.

Shunji Takano vs. Akira Taue (7/3/89)

<Rippa> which tape are we doing

<deanIzdean> Let's do Taue vs Takanao

<Rippa> okay

<deanIzdean> Write a little introduction while I change my pants

<deanIzdean> We'll C&P directly

<Rippa> Dean and I love to do this little thing we call Synching up

<deanIzdean> mmmm... silky...

<Rippa> The fly in everybody's ointment comes when we try and find a tape, show, match to watch

<deanIzdean> This is Shunji Takano - the brother of the TALENTED Takano

<deanIzdean> OOP

<Rippa> You are an idiot

<deanIzdean> Goat head

<Rippa> I knew it didn't look like George - but I trusted you

<Rippa> DAMN YOU RASMUSSEN! DAMN YOU TO HELL!!!

<Rippa> Whoops - I put the wrong tape back in the VCR

<deanIzdean> Shunji Takano is probably better known for being Giant Zebra

<Rippa> Giant Zebra was great in that M. Pro match where he did the world's lengthiest baseball slide

<deanIzdean> He also ran PRO WRESTLING CRUSADERS with the Space Jews from the 13 Promotion Tokyo

<Rippa> which is possibly the weirdest show in the history of wrestling

<deanIzdean> I love Giant Zebra. He was such a old school heavyweight

<Rippa> and to trump Boom Boom Machini calling a match is a tough thing to do

<Rippa> Have you started the match yet?

<deanIzdean> If they have him wrestling in All japan, one can only guess that they have Matsunaga wrestling in All japan somewhere

<deanIzdean> I'll start it now

<deanIzdean> TAUE HAS GIANT HAIR~!

<deanIzdean> Takano looks like Don Ho's older brother

<deanIzdean> Where are you?

<Rippa> I probably need to pause this to let you catch up

<deanIzdean> Knuckle lock

<Rippa> They are on their 2nd lockup

<deanIzdean> back away

<Rippa> Taue is working the arm

<deanIzdean> knuckle lock knuckle lock
<Rippa> tell me when Takano gets his foot on the ropes
<deanIzdean> WHOA! Suplex out
<deanIzdean> okay
<deanIzdean> Lock up work the arm
<Rippa> Taue with advantage
<deanIzdean> oh yeah
<deanIzdean> and...
<deanIzdean> the ROPE
<deanIzdean> WE R SYNCHED~!
<Rippa> or a close approximation
<Rippa> slam
<deanIzdean> Taue's hair is amazing
<deanIzdean> Kinda like a thrid Everly Brother
<Rippa> I think that is insulting to Taue
<Rippa> He has much finer hair than the Everly Brothers ever dreamed off
<deanIzdean> Takano has the Jumbo Lite hairstyle and look going
<Rippa> Is Takano sporting the TUBE SOCKS OF DOOM!
<deanIzdean> A sort of Koki Kitahara to Shinya Hashimoto thing going
<Rippa> actually Takano's hair is closer to Tenryu
<Rippa> 's
<deanIzdean> Takano is sporting the fabulous tube socks
<Rippa> thats a rather unflattering shot
<deanIzdean> Annnnd they keep it on the mat
<Rippa> straight through Takanao's package
<deanIzdean> Taue says, "Hello WORLD, this is my VENT!"
<Rippa> Taue is so what my Dad would look like if I was Japanese
<deanIzdean> This isn't what you would call the most "intense" mat work in Puroresu
<deanIzdean> I see that Muta studied with the master- Shunji Takano
<Rippa> the tube socks are hypnotic though
<deanIzdean> The sky blue stripes with the black highlights- absolutely TOP DRAWER
<Rippa> Taue's not exactly applying the STF with gusto either
<deanIzdean> That's TF- he's doesn't STEP-OVER into the Toe Hold
<Rippa> That piledriver was.... odd
<deanIzdean> Toehold Front Facelock
<deanIzdean> Piledriver as transition to leg scissors
<deanIzdean> I don't know about THAT
<Rippa> How did you get behind me
<Rippa> oh dear lord - children running for their lives
<deanIzdean> Hey, they are kicking each other, and throwing each other into the rails
<deanIzdean> this is picking up
<Rippa> I better pause to let you catch up
<deanIzdean> That was a Vertical Suplex
<deanIzdean> Taue with the cjhops

<deanIZdean> and the kicks of dickishness
<Rippa> we spell like we have no pinkys
<deanIZdean> Takano selling the back
<deanIZdean> My pinkys suck
<deanIZdean> Takano sells 400% better than Momoe Nakanishi
<deanIZdean> I'm CONTROVERSIAL!
<Rippa> Yeah - you don't like Cassandra
<Rippa> what's this going to be?
<Rippa> Top Rope Samoan Drop
<deanIZdean> Taue looks like Tiger Mask 1 compared to King Of All Lumbering, Takano
<Rippa> HAHAAHAHAHAHAHA
<deanIZdean> Speaking of Which TAUE OFF THE TOP!
<Rippa> That was the greatest worst plancha of all time
<Rippa> tell me when you get to Taue about to throw Takano back into the ring
<deanIZdean> Taue got much much better at that
<deanIZdean> Taue has the Ciclon Ramirez Fat Boy Tope down to a science at this point
<deanIZdean> RAMIREZ
<deanIZdean> Taue with a two count
<Rippa> okay - you are ahead of me again
<Rippa> we are failing the public
<Rippa> I blame you
<deanIZdean> Belly to Belly was nice
<Rippa> Wow - that was ugly
<deanIZdean> THAT WAS COOL
<deanIZdean> The Toprope Kneedrop
<deanIZdean> That rocked
<Rippa> Taue is bringing the chops
<deanIZdean> HOW COULD YOU NOT LIKE THAT
<Rippa> I only just got to the top rope knee
<deanIZdean> oh
<Rippa> you were like 19 hours ahead of me
<deanIZdean> We became UNSYNCHED
<deanIZdean> I
<Rippa> I blame Schneider
<deanIZdean> I blame myself
<deanIZdean> Did you get to it?
<deanIZdean> Wasn't it balls out?
<Rippa> Yeah - but the match itself had its flaws
<deanIZdean> Why wasn't a Takano a big star?
<Rippa> George would have been much better
<deanIZdean> Well Taue in 1989 is problematic
<Rippa> Probably because he stuck himself in a GIANT FUCKING ZEBRA COSTUME
<deanIZdean> George had fallen off the face of the earth by this point, right?
<Rippa> When was those matches against Dynamite Kid and DBS?

<deanIzdean> Actually, both jumped to SWS and THEN fell off the face of the earth

<deanIzdean> 1984

<deanIzdean> 1983

<deanIzdean> THOSE fucking RULE

<Rippa> yeah - well the SWS jump was after this match

<deanIzdean> I guess 1991

<deanIzdean> So it wasn't too far off

<Rippa> lot fucking closer than I was

Shinichi Nakano vs. Mitsuo Momota – PWF Jr. Title

<deanIzdean> Is that Masa Fuchi?

<Rippa> maybe

<deanIzdean> No that 's somebody else

<deanIzdean> That's George Takano

<deanIzdean> LET ME SPRINT TO GOOGLE!

<deanIzdean> pause at the bell

<Rippa> wait - you mean the next match on the tape?

<Rippa> yeah - I am googling too

<Rippa> Wrestling Emporium shows up way to fucking much in this search

<deanIzdean> Schneider said that the Wrestling Emporium got him that Mempohis trape correctly

<deanIzdean> We'll edit out all these spelling errors, right?

<Rippa> Do I have to - it makes the log real

<Rippa> Not corrections allowed :-)

<Rippa> plus, no one will believe I wrote this if I spell words correctly

<deanIzdean> Shinichi Nakano vs Mitsuo Momota

<Rippa> oh - I forgot to pause at the bell

<deanIzdean> Is that the same Nakano from UWF-i

<deanIzdean> You there?

<Rippa> okay - I paused at the bell

<deanIzdean> go

<deanIzdean> lockup

<Rippa> you realize that we now have to do this entire show like this :-)

<deanIzdean> snapmare

<deanIzdean> fuck yeah

<Rippa> damn - they are starting at a hyper clip

<deanIzdean> I guess this was the Asako vs Kanemaru of 1989

<Rippa> Fuck - it could be that same Nakano. I am an idiot when it comes to professional wrestling, let alone UWF-i

<deanIzdean> Naww

<deanIzdean> He would have to gain 100 pounds and develop a weird fascination for Elvis

<deanIzdean> Momota looks like a Japanese Geometry teacher whose day has suddenly gone horribly wrong

<deanIzdean> the lil gut and the comical moustache

<Rippa> I think I might have seen like one other Momota match so I am stoked
<Rippa> that's the mustache you wish you could grow
<deanIzdean> They show a close up of his gigantic head for a really long time
<Rippa> THAT'S how you do a piledriver
<deanIzdean> You're ahead of me
<Rippa> okay - I paused
<Rippa> at the side close up of Takano's giant nose
<deanIzdean> Where's the piledriver?
<Rippa> right after the great enziguri
<Rippa> where are you?
<deanIzdean> Oh we were synched
<deanIzdean> That is a great piledriver
<deanIzdean> VERTICAL BASE!
<Rippa> okay - where are you now?
<deanIzdean> Nakano is hitting the big knees to the stomach
<deanIzdean> Now he's in a kneebar
<Rippa> fuck - you are wildly ahead of me now
<deanIzdean> Momota has an armbar
<Rippa> I am still at the Nakano family trait of lying around on the mat while in a cross
armbreaker
<Rippa> tell me when you get to them being in the corner
<deanIzdean> He is selling it like a particularly well-applied chinlock
<deanIzdean> So pointless matwork is a really old All Japan Tradition
<Rippa> pointless matwork is back in style now
<Rippa> have they gotten to the corner yet?
<Rippa> Hey = the wife is finally off the phone
<deanIzdean> I'm assuming that these two will be trading Dangerous Vertical Suplexes and
High Angle Airplane spins by the end
<deanIzdean> FINALLY
<deanIzdean> In the corner
<Rippa> call me
<deanIzdean> Momota with the punching
<deanIzdean> Close up of Nakano's teeth as he sells the Fujiwara Armbar
<Rippa> this has been entertaining in an inexplicable way
<deanIzdean> It's like the total anti-thesis of New Japan Junior Heavyweight wrestling
<deanIzdean> But it doesn't actually make sense because All Japan had Dynamite vs Tiger
Mask
<deanIzdean> It's like they disregarded all of it
<deanIzdean> 89, Lyger is tearing it up with Owen Hart across town
<deanIzdean> Meanwhile Aj is Mike Graham vs Nelson Royal
<deanIzdean> This is like a Legends match
<Rippa> I am sure you are going to get heat for dissing both Graham and Royal
<deanIzdean> I'm not dissing them, I'm just saying that this is pretty archaic junior heavyweight
wrestling for the period

<deanIZdean> This is SEVEN years after the DK vs TM Water Bottle Match
<deanIZdean> Okay, FUCK ME RUNNING
<deanIZdean> That Tope was super BALLS OUT
<Rippa> Yeah - but I am not expecting to either of these guys to do anything close to DK vs. TM
<Rippa> maybe I should be though
<Rippa> JESUS that was great
<deanIZdean> Well, the style they were wrestling 35 seconds ago was archaic- then it became Mr Niebla vs Black Warrior
<Rippa> GOD DAMN
<deanIZdean> THE REVERSE STO~!
<deanIZdean> I'm ahead of you, I think
<Rippa> Its like Momota heard us from the past and kicked it into gear
<Rippa> Oh year - you are ahead
<deanIZdean> You get to the tope and the plancha?
<Rippa> This suddenly got great
<Rippa> Yes - I got everything
<Rippa> Takano just hit a jumping clothesline for two
<deanIZdean> The weird leg takedown'
<Rippa> we are in the Boston Crab
<deanIZdean> Let me knwo when you get to the Boston Crab
<Rippa> Crab too
<deanIZdean> SYNCHED~!!@
<deanIZdean> ropes?
<Rippa> Crowd is fired up
<Rippa> Now
<Rippa> pause your tape for two secs
<deanIZdean> The Bret Hart Backbreaker by nakano
<deanIZdean> to set up the powerslam
<deanIZdean> for tow
<deanIZdean> two
<Rippa> I am smelling BRoadway... or not
<deanIZdean> Wha?
<deanIZdean> I missed the finish or something
<deanIZdean> Ah roll-up flashpin in the corner
<deanIZdean> That would have been better as a Nitro Match
<Rippa> Takano thinks he got jobbed
<deanIZdean> The first ten minutes were just killing time until high spots
<deanIZdean> A twelve year old Kodo Fuyuki looks on
<Rippa> Hell that was a Nitro match - when they used to throw guys out there for 85 minutes to kill time before the NWO spray painting
<deanIZdean> That's true
<deanIZdean> I should say 97 Nitro match

Dynamite Kid/Davey Boy Smith (British Bulldogs) vs. Dan Kroffat/Doug Furnas (Can-Am Express) (5/12/89)

<deanIzdean> Bulldogs vs Kroffat and Furnas

<deanIzdean> This is august 89

<deanIzdean> When did Dynamite scorch his back?

<Rippa> This so fits with the issue

<Rippa> before this

<Rippa> It always seems that the DK matches where he has the almost shaved heads are the DK next to death matches

<deanIzdean> Doug Furnas holds both the World Deadlift Record and the World's most Disturbing Pants record

<deanIzdean> Davey Boy is in Total roided stif condition in this

<Rippa> Jesus - looking at the 4 guys in this match, it is amazing that DBS is the ONLY one who is dead

<deanIzdean> DK looks broken and drugged up

<deanIzdean> Danny Kroffat looks like a teenage Phil Rippa with the Guido oily hairstyle

<deanIzdean> DK is moving pretty good

<deanIzdean> My guess is cortizone

<Rippa> I had nowhere near the athletic ability that Kroffat had

<Rippa> This is great - this review is going to be freaking huge

<deanIzdean> Furnas was just legitimately big as shit, right

<deanIzdean> He was a world record deadlifter

<Rippa> if you mean by legitimate - you mean "on the gas", then yes

<deanIzdean> I mean, he WASN'T on the gas

<deanIzdean> He was just a big bitch

<deanIzdean> I watched Davey Boy Smith in 1980 yesterday and he is gassed out of the motherfucking gills in this here we are watching

<deanIzdean> Furnas was still all agile while DBS is prety immobile by this point

<Rippa> that is the less than spectacular mullet on DBS

<deanIzdean> he wussed on the true mullet

<deanIzdean> He made up for it 3 years later with the cornrows

<deanIzdean> This is like Hercules Hernandez vs Hercules Hernandez with the power no-selling

<deanIzdean> DK and Kroffat take it to the air with the Kroffat tope

<Rippa> oh - that aint going to help DK's back

<deanIzdean> DK makes with the coolest Snap suplex ever

<Rippa> GOD DAMN

<deanIzdean> YEah, DK is taggin out and DBS is having to work most of the match

<Rippa> that was a "Im really going to not pull this clothesline"

<Rippa> DK is fucking outstanding in the little bit he is in though

<deanIzdean> DBS makes with the perfect landing out of the monkey flip to fuck my whole DBS on Rois not Be agile theory

<Rippa> oh yeah - he just did a front flip too

<Rippa> just to shit in your cereal

<deanIzdean> DK takes it to the mat
<deanIzdean> and then hits the double dropkick off the toprope
<deanIzdean> to further ensure his crippling
<Rippa> Yeah - you watch it and go "Jesus - stop torching your back"
<Rippa> like that
<deanIzdean> The lariat into the corner by Kroffet?
<Rippa> yup
<deanIzdean> DK flies backfirst with the weight of Kroffat and furnas on him
<deanIzdean> Furnas with the Fucking BEAUTIFUL droPKICK
<Rippa> That is only thing I usually like from Furnas
<deanIzdean> ADN THE FRANKENSTEINER
<deanIzdean> my cap locks are freaky
<Rippa> eh - I am so over the frankensteiner being a cool move
<deanIzdean> Jesus fucking Christ
<deanIzdean> DK with the Superplex
<Rippa> God - that was all sorts of freaky stupid
<deanIzdean> "I HATE MY RUINED BACK!"
<Rippa> and the great selling too
<Rippa> assuming that is selling
<deanIzdean> I'm assuming that is not selling
<deanIzdean> That is called "The cortizone shot wearing off"
<Rippa> The side cloverleaf is neat
<deanIzdean> Nice german by Kroffat
<deanIzdean> Nice Crusifix by DBS
<Rippa> sweet bridge too
<Rippa> DBS isnt afraid to just lay on the mat too
<deanIzdean> DK crushes the face of Kroffat with a REAL leg drop
<Rippa> Jesus - doesnt anyone sell when in the hold
<deanIzdean> Whatever was left of DK's back gets destroyed by Furnas
<deanIzdean> s two suplexes
<deanIzdean> Those were fucking NAASTY
<Rippa> I knmow - I think every single bump he took was on his back
<deanIzdean> He had to have fucked his back up after this
<deanIzdean> unless he found the best drugs in alllll Japan
<deanIzdean> The over toprope bump
<Rippa> AWESOME!
<Rippa> though I hated that finish
<Rippa> the stuff leading up to it was great
<deanIzdean> The winning German by DK had the look of a man whose back no longer naturally works
<Rippa> him puking after the match kinda gives you the hint that something was up
<deanIzdean> That was a good little match when you get past the distraction
<deanIzdean> of wondering about how this lead to DK in a wheelchair

~!~

ALL JAPAN/ NEW JAPAN/ WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION WRESTLING SUMMIT (PART TWO)

(by DEAN RASMUSSEN)

Tito Santana/ Jimmy Snuka vs. Kenta Kobashi/ Masa Fuchi

Kobashi and Fuchi come out to Danger Zone by Kenny Loggins. Kenny Loggins holds no sway over any particular region of America so I cannot concoct a theory as to why they use it. I can concoct THREE:

REASON #1

Fuchi: We need a theme song.

Kobashi: You enjoyed that Beverly Hills Cop series of Movies.

Fuchi: Why yes. Judge Rheinhold was a revelation in all of them. The non-stop thrill ride kept me on the edge of my seat for FOUR movies. He truly lived in the DANGER ZONE!

Kobashi: Heeeeeeey, there ya go, big man! DANGER ZONE! Our theme for the match Sunday!

You think Tito Santana can hook us up with some Latin chicks. Cuz ya know I..... Fuchi and

Kobashi: LIKE BIG BUTTS and I cannot LIE! You other brothers you can't DENYY!

REASON #2

Fuchi: Kenta, my theme song- WHAT SHALL IT BE? It needs to express the inner me! The Tiger inside!

Kobashi: Well, what records do you like?

Fuchi: I'm old. I like that mid-70s mellow folkrock. You may not remember

Bread, Jim Croce or Loggins and Messina? Eventhoughhhh we AIN'T GOT MONEY - I'll be so in looove with ya honey....

Kobashi: I know of that song. Who did that?

Fuchi: Oh that was Loggins and Messina. They broke up. Jim Messina I never heard anything else by him. Kenny Loggins did a bunch of soundtrack songs.

Kobashi: Oh yeah. I remember you getting Kawada to go along with that whole Footloose thing you were pitching him.

Fuchi: Oh Loggins is a genius. You ever hear "Whenever I call You Friend"?

Kobashi: Oh yeah, with Stevie Nicks.

Fuchi That's one redneck sorceress I would throw a serious amount of jitter into.

Kobashi: Fuckin-A.

Fuchi: There was "I'm Allright" from Caddyshack.

Kobashi and Fuchi together: "HEY, DID SOMEONE STEP ON A DUCK!" HAHAAHAHAHAHA!

Kobashi: That is a great great great song but not upbeat enough for a wrestling entrance.

Maybe we should just order some fake Queen music from....

Fuchi: NO! Guitar orchestrations violate the very essence of my SOUL! IT MUST BE KENNY LOGGINS!

Kobashi: Did you like that Dan Fogelberg guy?

Fuchi: He was actually a little later...

Kobashi: Why don't you just use that song he did that sounds like Journey?

Fuchi: AH! DANGER ZONE! PERFECT!

REASON #3

Kobashi: Me and the boys were out drinking last night and we were trying to think of the shittiest song ever written.

Fuchi: There are so many. "Life Is Just A Fantasy" by Aldo Nova. "Rico Suave" by Gerardo. "You Light Up My Life" by Debbie Boone.

Kobashi: "Lady" by Kenny Rogers. "9 to 5" by Dolly Parton.

Fuchi: Hey, I know what would be funny. Think of the worst song you can think of that was ever written. And so will I. GO!

Kobashi: Okay....uh....uh DANGER ZONE by Kenny Loggins.

Fuchi: Oh yeah. Okay, I will go with.....SUSUSSUDIO by Phil Collins.

Fuchi: Okay, Get two bottles of Beam's Choice and we do shots. First one to pass out has their worst song played Sunday at that wrestling summit.

Kobashi: YOU'RE ON, BIG DADDY!

I like to think it's theory #3, but it is probabaly theory #1. Tito and Kobashi start out in a knucklelock and Tito is working heel. He also throws some of the comical punches you will ever see. Tito's offense is so 1982- with the head of Kenta Kobashi between his knees jump up and down spot. I awaited a man who took three straight Backdrop Drivers to tap to an Airplane Spin. Instead he tags in Fuchi and Fuchi starts pummeling the hot-blooded Santana with these Murdock-level punches. Kobashi is young and high-flying at this point and hits the dropkick off the top. Tito reverse out of a Brainbuster and tags in Snuka who would have had a great fucking match with Kobashi if Kobashi was 5 years older and this was from 1985. Snuka and Fuchi fuck up running the ropes and then they fuck up a Back Body drop spot. Tito rushes in and hits a bunch of dropkicks and a FLYING BURRITO/ FIVE-ARM/ MEXICAN HAMMER/ FLYING JALAPENO on Fuchi to set up the Superfly Splash for three. In the back, Misawa was putting on his Tiger Mask Mask and saying to himself, "Flying Burrito? That finisher is GENIUS! I should....."

Greg Valentine vs. Great Kabuki

1990 for these two. Hmmmmm. I live in fear. Oh shit. This is Rhythm and Blues-era Valentine so I am already hating this even more than I would have. Actually, Kabuki has the nunchuks and the mist so it all negates each other. So I am back to square one with all of this. This match is straight out of 1976 so I'm actually not minding it at all. It's all kinda Memphis 1976 because the psychology is basically whoever is punching last is the winner. Valentine does the facefirst flop and I wonder if I need to watch anymore- my only needs from this match satiated. Eh, Valentine hits some old school knife edge chops and Vertical Suplex. Kabuki jumps into the Tree of Woe and Valentine kicks him a few times before dragging him into the middle of the ring and crushing Kabuki's testicles with his forehead. Kabuki remembers to fight out of the Figure Four and procures a Boston Crab. Valentine escapes and goes back to the knife edge chops. Kabuki goes SUPERMEMPHIS and punches to offensive transition. Kabuki counters the Figure Four into a roll-up for three. Let's speak of this match no more....

Bret Hart vs. Tiger Mask

This is Misawa as Tiger Mask and Bret Motherfucking Hart in the ring and it is joined in progress. Why have I never watched this before? Bret works out of chinlock and Misawa Dustys his way out of it. Bret hits him across the back and they reverse out of Abdominal stretches. Bret misses an elbow. TM hits a Flying Cross Body Block. Hart hits the 100 Miles per Hour into the turnbuckle spot. And then the bell rings? Huh? What the fuck? This sucked. I expect more when the best wrestler in Japan in the 1990s gets in the ring with the best wrestler in America in the 1990s. PEEE-YOOOOO!

Jake Roberts vs. Big Boss Man

At this point, Big Boss Man could still work like a mutha. Jake The Snake could never work like a mutha. Jake could always sell really well. Boss Man had a lot of offense and would bump big for such a fatboy. It kinda plods along with a really long heat segment on Jake which works with the crowd at first but wears off. I mean it just keeps going. It kinda lasts for 78 minutes- the HEAT SEGMENT~! This was better than the last Jake the Snake match I saw. Which was the one at Heroes Of Wrestling where he was too drunk to speak. Jake goes on offense finally and hits some punches. Jake goes for a kneelift but Boss Man throws him in the turnbuckle. Boss Man goes for a powerslam but Jake does a standing switch and hits a SWANK DDT for the three. The body of the match was tedious. The finish was nice.

You just want the second half of this card. Ooooooooooh yeah.

~!~

Rainbow Festival 2002 (1/20/2002)

(by DEAN RASMUSSEN)

I'm not sure what the purpose of the Rainbow Festival was- I guess it had a cross-section of Japanese indie wrestling and had a slight array match styles I guess. There. You got your rainbow. ANNNNYHOOOOOOOZ...

AZUMI HYUGA/TSUBASA KURAGAKI vs. MICHIKO OUMAKI/AI FUJITA

Azumi Hyuga is all over every dirtbag promotion in Japan these days it seems- like when Tawny Kitaen was dating any cretin in a hair metal band back in the old days. Here our JWP castabout is tagging with Tsubasa Kuragaki against the twin towers of lesbianic ARSIONic punk-bringing: Michiko Ohmukai and young Ai Fujita. Ohmukai will kick ya right in the back. She's good or anything, but she will kick you in the back. Not very smooth. Ai is all supernifty in this- as she and Azumi go to the mat to the sound of a thousand teenage squirty sounds filling the Japanese living rooms across the greater Samurai TV veiwing area. Kuragaki steals the Flair Flip In The Corner Spot and SKYROCKETS up the DVDVR Joshi 100 next time. She's not afraid to bump for being such a young lady reaching her womanly fullness. Ohmukai blows the Gory Special- a spot I've never seen blown. She hits two nice versions of two holds that usually look like shit- The Destiny Hammer and the Shining Wizard- so Ohmukai is a mixed bag as she pins the Reubenesqe Kuragaki.

ASIAN COUGAR/PIKO vs. IKUTO HIDAKA/RAN YU-YU

Meanwhile in the Kuroken Sportatorium, Asian Cougar and PIKO take on Ikuto Hidaka and Ran Yu Yu in a Maid For A Day match (I'm guessing here.) Fujita vs Asian Cougar is a good little match-up of the 02- as this is the third match-up I've seen betwixt the two. Ran Yu Yu is sporting the white off-broadway version of CATS outfit and it makes her look supersexy. PIKO takes her ass-beating like any good clown should. They kinda mix it all up in the beginning but after two edits, it's pretty much Cougar vs Fujita, but with nasty looking dropkick saves by the laaaaaaadies, so it becomes their singles matches but without as many kick outs. Fujita takes it home with a Dos Caras Spinning around the Body Jumping Headscissors Roll-up on young Asian Cougar, which I will always adore...

SUSUMU MOCHIZUKI/DARKNESS DRAGON/GENKI HORIGUCHI vs. RYO
SAITO/KENICHIRO ARAI/SUPER SHISA

Toryumon serves up a fabulous little match, as Super Shisa is so much more fun than his prior identity as Saito. He is the Red Cat mask bedecked fireplug that heads the technico team along with headbutt boy Kenichiro Arai and fabulous matboy Ryo Saito. M2K brings the rudo love-what with Genki Horiguchi being the evil surfer too fabulous for words. Genki and Saito hit the mat early and it rocks then they go all lucha rope-running- like a good lucha match will. Susumu Mochizuki and Super Shisa go armdrag crazy and it's fun! Shisa takes a shot to the mighty mighty testicles from Susumu to get M2K on the Big O. Darkness Dragon is awesome in his stiffness as they carry the assbeat onto Ryo- doing the continuous tags in to do bodyslams. THE FRESH MAN IS ALWAYS IN! Ryo recovers with the cool double dropkick to two different knees on two different people. They do the Star to lead up to Super Shisa completely freaking out with the Reverse Skin The Cat Into A Hurricanrana. Then they do a highspot train with three missed highspots. DOH! Arai is so beloved because he is so Taue-like in his deliberateness and soliditiy. Super Shisa will become beloved because of his tricked-out lucha and fluidity, so you combine it with the best of both worlds- Ryo Saito- and you have a fine Trios team. Darkness Dragon is verging on superworker status and he and Genki make up for the deficiencies that Susumu has in execution- being the least of a really great stable- in that, if his selling was as good as his lariat, he would be really great as opposed to really good. Unbelievably, Arai takes the hit is pinned after Susumu's facebuster- as opposed to eternal Job boy Ryo. This is a good little match that lacked the fun and hijinx of this same match in Toryumon Proper.

KATSUMI USUDA vs. TAKAHIRO OBA

Katsumi Usuda from BattlARTS beats his trainee to death. Takahiro Oba looked perfectly fine in the beating of his ass- being suitably shootstyle, good switching to hardedged pro-style, selling the wrenched arm sockets and tough enough for the beloved BattlARTS RESTART~! FUCK YEAH!

TOMOAKI HONMA vs. MASATO TANAKA

Masato Tanaka bludgeons Tomoaki Honma in a battle of hardcore Japanese Iconz. Schneider hated this match but Schneider is an idiot. Despite him being an idiot, he made some valid points about Honma being a physical wreck and Honma's offense looking like complete shit.

What he didn't take into consideration is that Honma can actually sell, which actually makes this a watchable match. Honma doesn't have the riveting introduction that he used to get in Big Japan but he's not wrestling the brilliant Yamakawa either, so the level of excitement isn't as high. Masato is on a gigantour resurgence the last couple of years and looks fucking great beating the life out of Bloodletter Deluxe. They start out of the headlock and work into the 1/2 DiBiase-level Powerslam. Honma lariats Masato out of the ring and hits the Tope Con Hilo and the brawling begins. Masato throws Honma into a wall and blood spews forth. Honma then is Vertically Suplexed down a flight of stairs - A FLIGHT OF STAIRS!- as Honma will always go the extra mile. Speaking of which, Masato then Swinging DDT's him through a bunch of chairs on the floor. Then they take it back to the ring with ten punches in the corner- with Masato throwing his always fabulous punches. Then they go all RVD with a bunch of chairs and my love wanes a bit. It seems Honma is demoted to his Big Japan Junior status since being buried in All Japan because Masato gives him nothing and cuts him off immediately. Masato has the offense and Honma can sell really well, so this type of match can work on it's own merits but it is such a diminished return compared to what this match would have been if it had happened two years ago when Honma and Tanaka were on even footing in FMW and Big Japan. They kick out of some finishers and Honma hits a strangley very-protective non-Royal Road-level K-Driller and eventually succumbs to Masato's Canyon Facesmasher and we call it a meeting of two deathmatch masters whose careers are deeply going in two different directions.

MITSUHIRO MATSUNAGA vs. YOSHIAKI FUJIWARA

I hate both Mitsuhiro Matsunaga and Yoshiaki Fujiwara. Here they wrestle each other. Matsunaga is a vision in barbed-wire- with barbed wire tiara and matching barbed-wire vest. The barbed-wire miniskirt he sports is a bit too hardcore androgenous for my tastes- which is saying something. This is basically an old guy comedy match billed as deathmatch. IMAGINE MY DELIGHT! And then Mr. Pogo shows up. My delight is "off the charts" as masturbating-To-Xena-styled dorks would say. Luckily, for me, this goes on for 65 minutes- if the clock in my head is right. I am too delighted with the amazing display of plodding pro wrestling and carefully placing each other in barbed wire things or not stabbing each other with fencing foils to comment any further. I wouldn't actually say this is better than Kawada-Taue vs Kobashi-Misawa 95. No I wouldn't.

ATSUSHI ONITA/GREAT SASUKE/HIDEKI HOSAKA vs. SHOJI NAKAMAKI/ HIDO/ MASAYOSHI MOTEGI - Scramble Bunkhouse Street Fight Death Match (hey that's what the Lynch list said)

The main event is a Onita Pro Main Event- which is so not anything you would ever want to when compared to the Onita Pro Always Fascinating Undercard. This does have some odd historical facts associated with it. Great Sasuke and Masayoshi were both in the 1994 Super J cup- the mostly highly regarded Junior Tournament in the histroy of wrestling. Hido was in the best garbage deathmatch on US soil when he and Bull Pain tore it up last years IWA-MidSouth King Of The Deathmatch. Atsushi Onita used to sell-out entire baseball stadiums. Hosaka was vastly improved in the waning days of FMW. Shoji Nakamaki has always sucked and here he FINALLY gets to suck while wearing shiny pants. Luckily, Sasuke goes after Motegi so it starts off with a fabulous Asai Moonsault by Sasuke. Onita and Nakamaki brawl in the shittiest fashion

imaginable- with the no-selling of chairshots while they wander around the auditorium. Hido and Hosaka are fun by keeping it simple in the ring with the ladder spots. Motegi and Sasuke are far better brawlers than their 24-7 Brawler Counterparts. Selling is pretty key to any aspect of pro wrestling, but selling while brawling is the most important, I would say. Sasuke sells going back first into a ladder. Nakamaki looks up to Onita to look for the next called spot immediately after falling into a table. Sasuke gets the Craziest Fucking Thing In The Match Award by sticking his head through the middle rungs of the ladder as if to spinning around like a helicopter with the ladder being the helicopter blade, but Motegi sees him and sneaks up and Released German Suplexes Sasuke WHILE SASUKES HEAD IS STILL IN THE LADDER. It was beautiful. Plus you had the Sasuke Tope Con Hilo onto Motegi on the ladder. God, Sasuke is feeling it for such a crappy batch of shit going on around him- what with him hitting all these hurting top rope sentons and whatnot. I wanna see Motegi vs Sasuke in a deathmatch. Onita kinda unceremoniously hits two Thunder Fire Powerbombs on Motegi and pins him. Postmatch, Onita yammers on about something and pounds on the mat and Mr Pogo runs in and something I'm sure. The Sauke vs Motegi parts of this were good. The hido vs Hosaka parts were okay. The rest was ten pounds of shit in a five pound bag.

Not enough good indie sleaze to recommend. Nope.

~!~

ECWA "Super 8" 1997 (2/27/97)

(by PHIL RIPPA)

This was the only Super 8 that wasn't attended by our clan. To realize that we have been too five others is making my bones ache. So very old.

Rumor has is that the winner of this tournament will be crowned ECWA TV Champ

First Round

Reckless Youth vs. Billy Kidman

At this point in time, Youth was one of the biggest names on the US Indy wrestling circuit while Kidman had a little following due to his exposure on WCW TV – as evidenced by the nice pop he gets when he comes out. There are some folks calling the match for the crowd. I don't recognize their voices but it is actually really distracting. This was basically the standard Youth match you were getting at the time. Face gets early advantage, leading to a couple of two counts (Kidman's big move being a top rope splash). Youth heels it up to get the Big Mo. (Boy, rereading that makes it seems like Youth was trying to pick up Mo Vaughn. A very unpleasant thought indeed.) RY works over the body part of his choosing, throws in the abdominal stretch and taunts the crowd. The face always gets back on offense right before the exchanging of finishers that tops off the match. Nothing wrong with the pattern but after 6 years and many matches watched, you realize how obvious it is. This is a real good opener – I would probably put it second behind Daniels/Peterson. Still some flaws, like Youth twice forgoing immediate pins off of big moves (a sweet brainbuster and the Frog Splash – his finisher) so he can instead apply a La Magistral. I mean it works with the finish – Kidman blocks a third La Magistral for the

three count – but the flow is all wrong. If you are going to base your offense around a roll-up, you shouldn't be thinking, "you know this top rope powerbomb works great." For someone who has been in ECWA for so long, Youth's success in the Super 8 isn't that stellar. Though I don't think you are going to job the WCW guy out in the first round when you are trying to get your own guys on TV (remember, Ace Darling and Devon Storm showing up on Sat Night). This is a really rambling opening review.

Inferno Kid vs. Ace Darling

Barry Casino is Darling's manager for the evening. Stupid fat bastard not knowing where the steak house is. Inferno Kid has no posse of frat boys and isn't very good, no matter what year it is. This will be a chore to get through. I have had to resort to getting through the match with mute on because there really is nothing worse than announcers over the PA system. Between Darling's mullet and Inferno's tassels – this is a Rasmussen wet dream. If only Casino was wearing a vest. Superkick gets Darling into the semis.

Lance Diamond vs. Ronny Roberts

Ronny Roberts is a mystery. We are in the chat and no one remembers him. I swear the only thing I have heard his name in is this tournament. The handheld isn't great so I speculate that if I squint really hard he could be a taller, leaner Tom Burton. And the reason we have all this time to discuss this is because there is a big, heaping batch of mic at the beginning all designed to send the managers back to the locker room. As the match progresses, I hypothesize that Roberts could be like a sixth cousin to Jimmy Del Ray. His offense is quite Rude Awakening intensive. Roberts also does the slowest moonsault in the history of moonsaults. It was like something out of the Matrix as the camera swooped around and you could and wait for him to land. Very little else to recall. Diamond advances.

Devon Storm vs. Cheetah Master

This was the Devon Storm does the job in every first round of every tournament he enters period. This was the Cheetah Master kinda qualifies as a light heavyweight and gets insane crowd pops period. CM also has this goofy ponytail. I fast forward to the actual wrestling. I really didn't care for Storm too much until he had the match with Benoit on Sat Night and then he started having a decent run as Crowbar. Now, he is just a jean wearing Sabu wrestling garbage matches against a baggy pants Devon Storm. Of the current Storm or the blonde, perm mulleted Storm of 1997 – I would rather watch the 97 incarnation. There is a puzzling portion of the match where Storm plays the Extremists in Peril, which is just so odd as Cheetah Master is your definition of baby-face. I don't really hate this match but it isn't good. Applications of moves are balky and slow. Too much chinlock. Storm pops up way too quick after possibly the best German suplex that CM has ever thrown. Things like that. Anyway – if you follow ECWA at all, you know that CM is going over and I got to get through this tape so we are moving on.

SEMIFINALS

Billy Kidman vs. Cheetah Master

There was some stuff in between the tournament matches – what I don't know. They aren't on this tape. One would imagine that there was possibly an ECWA Summit. This seems to be the

odd pairing. Since both are faces, we get lots of “scientific” wrestling. That means an assortment of hip tosses, armbars, headlocks. That’s all well and good but there are bunches of other people I would rather watch trade armbars than these two. The story is told smartly as after the opening section of trading moves back and forth, CM starts to use his size advantage to stay on offense. Geez, Kidman has been taking some of the same bumps forever. CM hits the splash but stuns himself and the delay in the cover allows Kidman to get his foot on the ropes. The story is repeated only this time Kidman hits the Shooting Star Press – which for 1997, was really good looking. This is all followed immediately by the double pin with CM raising his shoulders at two. I really hate that finish. Match was short – which proves that short semis are the rule not the exception.

Ace Darling vs. Lance Diamond

Fuck – does every freaking Lance Diamond match have to start with him ON THE STICK!!!! The gist of this fight is that Barry Casino is the manager of both guys. Diamond wants Casino to waddle to the back Darling doesn’t want Casino to risk the heart failure. The purpose of all of this is to get Diamond to be the face and to cement Darling as the heel. It works fairly well. Six years is a lot of time to watch both of these guys and I have realized that that is what the problem is. Retroactively watching this isn’t best thing in the world because things they were doing that would be considered good at the time now seem repetition. Which is really a shame because the match is good – especially for the time period on the US indy scene. It also sucks that everyone knew that Casino was going to cost Diamond the match so you get all really frustrated about watching something that you knew the inevitable conclusion too. What is even worse is that Casino liberally interferes and I can watch the sweat role off his mighty hump.

Finals

Ace Darling vs. Cheetah Master

Thirty minutes later, the card draws to its conclusion. With CM in the tournament, it is interesting to think about what matches filled out the rest of the card. If I was really ambitious, I could search for someone’s show report on the RSPW archives. Let’s not kid ourselves though – Google will not be fired up tonight. I suck. Devon Storm decided to grace us with his presence again. Much like the semis, we work in backwards order as the heel starts off with control of the match and then CM makes his comeback. This makes more sense as the big climax is CM missing the splash and Darling rolling him up for the pin. Short match which is really odd for a tournament final.

As the show was finishing up, I started taking stock of where everyone was now, in the year 2002, in their careers. Kidman is the closest to being the true “star” as he has had plenty of time in both WCW and WWF. Hey, and he jobbed to Hogan because you know that really elevated him. Devon Storm had that brief rise but now he is stuck praying that one of these 7000 startup feds sticks around. Cheetah Master might have had a shot at the big time until he blew out his knee playing basketball. Now, he is still headlining ECWA cards. Though he does get to hit on Billy and Chuck every once and a while. Reckless Youth is kinda, sorta retired as he has a bum back. Inferno Kid is like CM in that he is still in ECWA and he blew out his knee. Other than that, not so good. Ace Darling and Lance Diamond might as well be on milk cartons. Where and if

they are working is beyond my realm of knowledge. Ronny Roberts is probably in a shallow grave somewhere along I-295. Man, that is mean. Okay, he is probably in a somewhat deep grave somewhere along I-295.

~!~

MICHINOKU PRO (11/2002) PART 2

(by DEAN RASMUSSEN)

James Mason vs. Hideki Nishida

James Mason comes out in the fabulous glittery Union Jack jacket, covering up his suitably grotesque ring outfit- a gloriously horrendous amalgam of greyish blue, red and black- looking more like a 1982 high school gym coach than a wrestler. Nishida is in cammo and I am filled with hate for the loss of the tassels. He has replaced the tassels with balls to the wall matwork, so I can only be so upset. Mason and Nishida trade armbars and blur Mexican/English on how to reverse it in the most elaborate way- into chanceries, rolls, cartwheels, kip ups, wristcontrol rollthroughs, stump puller arm agony- THE WHOLE MAGILLA. They finally get to a stalemate and the crowd responds, then the bell rings and we now realize that they are using the rounds system- which rocks. Mason with the standing Drop Toe Hold into a cravate attempt on the mat, but Nishida spins out and goes for the Toe Hold, but Mason spins out. Mason goes superBritish with the Armlock wher you pick you opponent up at the wrist by his locked and extended arm. And then he wrenches in and does it again but Nishida hits a sloppy roll-up to escape. Mason gets a Cravate and Snapmares him into Crucifix Roll up for two. Nishida tries for a Rear Toe Hold Thing and hits a flying Spin kick as Mason escapes. Nishida dropkicks him on the ground and goes for the Arena Coliseo Preposterous Lucha Submission as the time of the round runs out- thus showing the beauty of the rounds system, the added ways to escape a finish. Nishida and Mason fly into some super goofy Ode To Johnny Saint sequeneces leading into five rollups in 10 seconds. They hit the ropes and again they go into a roll up sequence but Mason ends up on top for the three after the first Nishida reversal is reversed again. This was really neat. Nishida is n master on the mat and to hang with Mason's fucked-up mat style is quite a feat. Mason did a good job of getting Nishida through the more excessively esoteric sequences that only five people on earth would know how to work at this moment that are currently wrestling. Wrestling should be fun. This was fun.

Chad Collyer vs. Shinzaki

Chad Collyer takes on the "invisible in the new millenium" Shinzaki. A.K.A Chad Malenko keeps it pretty basic as they start with a nice section on the mat to get to a stalemate. Chad kicks in with the strikes that Shinzaki countders with a kick to the windpipe. Shinzaki catches two knees when going for an Avalanche and Collyer goes on offense with a Reverse Ace Crusher for two. Shinzaki hits the nice Enzuguiri while Irishing Whipping Collyer and takes him to the mat with a Cravate which he turns into an Inverted Triangle Hold. Collyer finally makes the ropes but Shinzaki misses a Five Fingers Of Death to the throat, Chad kicks him in the throat and hits Vertical Suplex. He goes for the Northern Lights Suplex but Shinzaki blocks it. Shinzaki hits the ropes but takes a Powerslam. Shinzaki escapes a Vertical Suplex attempt and catches Collyer's foot during an Enzuguiri and hits his supernasty Ankle Dragon Screw. Collyer powers out of a Powerbomb attempt and cinches in the Texas Cloverleaf. Shinzaki hits the ropes and

goes straight into his pinning ritual- chop to the throat/ Shoulderblock off the top/ stuff powerbomb for the win. Perfectly okay wrestling I guess. Completely emotionless and no actually story is told. Oh wait. That means this sucked. There ya go - this sucked, but in the most insidious, least-obvious way.

Gedo/Pentagon Black/Dick Togo/Psychic vs. Great Sasuke/Masao Orihara/Devil Man/Tiger Mask IV - Elimination Match

Orihara and Sasuke and Gedo and Jado are fussin and a-feudin! Psychic is aligned with Gedo and Jado! Yes he is. The Gedo and Dick Togo tagging looks completely balls out and fills me thrills me with unknown terror never known before. We get to the Main Event and I am suitably torqued. Psychic is led out and he is wearing the food service hairnet thing and the work release orange jumpsuit. Devil Man looks like the lost Inhuman- maybe a romance with Medusa went wrong. Maybe this isn't the main event because Devil Man hits a blockbuster and a German to win the match in 24 seconds. OH WAIT! It's an elimination match! Awesome! Here comes Gedo and he is a peck of fun beating the crud out of Devil Man- finding new ways to apply the lowblow. Sasuke comes out and Gedo responds by punching Devil Man in the face somemore. Sasuke goes craaaazy in the beating of Gedo and makes me completely freak by doing the DIBIASE-STYLED SIDE FISTDROP~! Sasuke rules! Devil Man takes over as it becomes and tag match (I'm guessing) until Dick MOTHERFUCKING Togo comes in. Togo and Sasuke are magic- and Dick Togo looks fucking great. He is a laserbeam of sheer rudo power. Dick has trunks with a giant skull on his dick and I freak out. Togo is such the motherfucking KING. TM4 comes in and is absolutely king-sized until DICK TOGO crushes his testickles like two little bugs. Pentagon Black is greeted with the Flying Body Press by TM4. Gedo is busting up Devil Man and Dick Togo is being as awesome as he can possibly be, beating the poo out of Sasuke. Orihara starts cleaning house until Dick and Gedo go all Southern Heel on his ass. Sasuke and Orihara make the face comeback while Gedo and TM4 fight into the bathroom. Sasuke is eliminated by Pentagon Black - who uses a Tombstone on the belt to put him away. Pentagon and TOGO start ripping Orihara apart as Devil Man keeps trying to make the save, always being thrown out of the ring- as a sort of Blue Body Suit-wearing Gene Ligon trying to keep the Moondogs from killing Cruel Connection #1 after the match is over. Dick is all high impact, killing Orihara's knee and this is suddenly a regular six-man. I'm guessing they gave out a Rules Flowchart as you walked into the armoury. They keep working on Orihara's knee, continually cutting off Orihara's comebacks and running across the ring and punching DM and TM4 in the mush. Gedo hits the Superfly Splash on Devil Man. Dick hits a Pedigree and then misses on a GIGANTIC top rope Senton. TM4 and Orihara bust up and eliminate Pentagon. Did they win? I guess so. All hell breaks loose - with Sasuke killing the living fudge out of Psychic with gigantic over the Top rope Somersault Senton to the floor. Odd match because the rules were kinda made up on the fly it seems. Either way, Dick Togo is the fucking king.

This is good. There are thousands more MP tapes that are better than this, but Dick Togo and Gedo permeate the tape and the Mason/ Nishida match is good. Yeah sure. I'd recommend seeing this.

~!~

WRESTLER OF THE WEEK - DAVEY BOY SMITH

Davey Boy Smith vs. Dynamite Kid - Calgary - Stampede Wrestling (1982)

(by DEAN RASMUSSEN)

This is from those Stampede Classics tapes where they usually join them 25 minutes in of a 30 minutes match so all you get is two guys laying around selling 25 minutes of damage that you didn't get see- thus you don't become emotionally connected with the match. The vq is QUESTIONABLE on this- my very old tape- and it was actually to my advantage- because I was going, "When this Bret Hart vs Dynamite Kid match is over, it'll be the DBS vs DK match I need." DBS punches just like Bret Hart here- which is neat. Smith would take a big bump before he became the 15th consecutive posterboy for the steroids can kill you before you kids get out of elementary school awareness drive. Here they cut to just before the ref bump and Davey flies over the top and does a very athletic counter into hitting a nasty looking Belly to Back Suplex for the win. Why they didn't show all of these matches is deeply beyond my comprehension.

Cuban Assassin/ Jerry Morrow vs Davey Boy Smith/Dynamite Kid - Calgary - Stampede Wrestling (1988)

(by DEAN RASMUSSEN)

This Cuban Assassin ISN'T David Sierra so I'm less stoked but the fact that Jerry Champagne Morrow is going by Comrade Jerry Morrow makes up for the lack of a young Sierra. This is when the Bulldogs were completely immersed in steroids and are three times their natural thickness. DBS is still pretty agile at this point, as he hadn't become completely muscle-bound though he is doing the strongman flying kickout spot but he also hits a nice double dropkick. Morrow sells a DK piledriver like a king and then takes the DBS powerslam and they start editing the match. They get to this awkward spot where Dynamite backdrops Assassin onto Morrow and they just kinda up and walk out on the match, giving the Bulldogs the win but not the titles. You forget how annoying the booking in Stampede was until you break out the old tapes. Their commercial tape editing is almost as annoying.

Davey Boy Smith vs. The Cobra - Stampede Wrestling (1984)

(by DEAN RASMUSSEN)

I'm assuming from what I can gather: Cobra is George Takano and he was one of the most underrated Juniors from the 80s. Ed Whalen is wearing an amazing tie and blathers at length. Cobra's mask is beautiful and they join in at the 20 minute mark -because they HATE YOU. I didn't realize that they hailing Cobra from Pakistan- thus possibly making him a prototype of the kind of free agent headhunter that Caracchi Vice would bring in six years later. Cobra kicks off with an odd falling backwards Bodyslam. Davey Boy powers out of Powerbomb, maybe? DBS cartwheels out of monkey flip attempt. This is kinda like where DBS should have tried to stay-size wise: where he was big enough to do credible powermoves, but still light enough to do great highflying. DBS procures the chinlock and they work out of it from there. Cobra hits the floor and then goes low during a lock-up and goes on offense, hitting the second rope senton. DBS with the back elbow and they miss two elbows and dropkick and they hit the double clothesline finally. It has the look of neither speaking the others language. Cobra goes up top and misses a diving headbutt. DBS answers with the Lingering Vertical Suplex for two. Davey Boy Smith Running Powerslams Cobra too close to ropes for two. He ties Cobra up, but Cobra escapes

and Davey Boy does the Calgary Stampede Signature Double Testicle-Crusher Missed Dropkick through the Second and Third Ropes. Cobra comes alive here, throwing some really great punches before running Davey into the ropes, but Davey jumps into a beautiful Crucifix and gets the pin. Not the best Cobra match you will ever see. Those would all be against Dynamite Kid in Japan, but this match gives you a good gauge of what Davey Boy Smith could do earlier in his career before he became a pretty one dimensional power wrestler.

Davey Boy Smith vs. Vader - WCW Clash of the Champions XXIV (8/18/93 - WCW World Title)
(by PHIL RIPPA)

I STOLE THIS TAPE FROM DEAN RASMUSSEN AND HE WHEEPS BITTER TEARS! The tape is question is Cream of the Clash Vol.1 (I actually stole all three volumes - so many good matches without having to sit through the Awesome Kongs.) The is after the Beach Blast match where Vader busted at the moonsault. No, he really did. Its on tape. It was so not a Paul Wight moonsault though. Michael Buffer butchers the intro something fierce. Davey Boy Smith presents quite the different opponent for Vader than he usually got when he was in WCW. DBS was a power wrestler and besides probably Ron Simmons was the only one who really could be presented as a rival to Vader's power. Usually you had guys like Sting and Cactus Jack being pinballs for Vader. Not this time. Heck, I don't think DBS had ever been a pinball in his life. So with all that being said, this is a sure definition of US Heavyweight wrestling. Heavy strikes, power collisions and methodical pace. DBS jumps Vader to get the early advantage but gives it all away when he goes for a slingshot splash. DBS hurts a knee and Vader drops a great looking elbow drop on it. Vader wears him down and doesn't seem to be in a great hurry to get the win. During the outside brawl, there is a moment where DBS suplexes Vader on the guardrail and a drunk fan with Buddy Roberts' wig, throws him off. I was waiting for Harley Race to show the idiot how fake wrestling was. One of the stories of this match is that the DQ rule has been waived meaning Vader can lose the title on a DQ. So everytime Vader or Harley argue with Nick Patrick, Tony screams about how Vader can lose the title. And then Jesse Ventura makes an assinine comment about how the rule also helps Vader because he could keep the title on a DQ. Tony wonders what the fuck Jessie is smoking and how that is any different from any other title match the federation has run. The match is 11 minutes long and feels like 111. DBS continues his listless seeling when in rest holds and Vader moves at the pace of a man who is well over 400 pounds. A Vader bomb delivers what is the only real two count of the match before the finish. Actually - I am wrong, the was a spot where Vader goes for a Samoan Drop and DBS turns it into a cruxifix pin. I was stunned that Vader was able to get out before three because he looked so out of place fighting out of the hold. The finish is DBS turning whatever Vader was attempting off the ropes into a powerslam. Nick Patrick gets bumped in the process. DBS goes for a suplex but Race comes in clips the knee that was hurt way back at the beginning of the match but forgotten about during the meat of the match. Patrick wakes up and makes the three. This is supposed to be the good match between the two? Postmatch sees DBS punk out Race, Vader punk out DBS and a returning Cactus Jack punks out Vader. I am happy about that last part.

Young David (Davey Boy Smith) vs. Ironfist Clive Myers (1980)
(by DEAN RASMUSSEN)

The best thing about this - other than the super tricked-out British matwork and insane pace - is the golf tournament call of the announcer. It makes it all so classy. Young David starts from a headlock and Myers hits the double arm suplex for two. David and Myers do the Johnny Saint-like weird-ass reversals until Myers Snapmares Smith and Smith runs up the ropes and sprawls out and rolls up Myers for the first fall. The commentator is so fucking great as he describes it as if it were a really fine putt of the 14 hole at Augusta. The Second Fall starts with Myers doing a NICE German Suplex that Davey Boy Smith counters out of as he does a Granby Roll into the ropes. Myers gets a single leg takedown and they do the weirdass Ankle Lock Spot where Myers has DBS in a standing Ankle Lock but DBS grabs Myer's closest ankle keeps pushing Myers far ankle out farther and farther until it starts looking like Jean-Claude Van Damme between two chairs. Clive is stuck but Young David gets up and helps him up - as this is like every thing you never see these days - face vs face, friend vs friend, scientific wrestling and yet you never want to pass out from boredom. They hit the ropes and you can see where Great Sasuke got his superfast roperunning style- from the British, not the Mexicans. It is fucking great and superfreaky and is ended when Myers hits the hiptoss on Young David for two. Myers gets the Single Leg Takedown and they do the comical lucha legspreader spot. They work out of a knucklelock and it goes all over the place - rolls on the ground for reversal, sideways, upside down until Myers gets the knucklelock version of the Gorie Special and you are soooooo in love with fucked up British matwork by this point. Myers drops it into a pinning predicament and gets a two. Back to a vertical base, Myers starts doing all these cool ass armbars. Young David does the same but Myers catches him with David's own arm between legs and yanks him onto his back. David with a sideslam for two and Myers goes in a chinlock David fights out and shoots him into the ropes for another sideslam but the bells sounds for the end of the round. David starts the third round with wrist control but Myers monkey flips out. David with the snapmare but Myers jumps over his head and then jumps backwards over his head and does a Miguel Perez Double leg underhook roll-up thingy to get the second fall. Third Fall starts with David procuring the armbar fro a vertical base and Myers does an armdrag out of it for two. They do a roll-up sequence and David takes it to the with a kneebar. Myers does the super cool inexplicable lock counter to roll up Davey Boy. David gets a haedlock and they do all these leg things to try to get control. David spins but Clive gets David in a pinning predicament and they do this fast as shit roll out into a bridge into a monkey flip into and bridge into a monkey flip into a roll-up and YOU- YOU!- are freaking out with love at this lost wrestling style. Actually, T2P is all about this so we should call this a "re-discovered wrestling style". Myers hits a nice Butterfly Suplex for two and the round is over. the commentator has been fucking ruling it this whole time. I should have hipped you to it. He calls the match as lowkey as possible so that when they is any change in voice modulation, you feel the excitement. It's sorta like Kawada showing emotion- you know it means something. They start the sixth and final round with a (I counted) ten reversals into roll-ups in about 9 seconds. David goes for a Butterfly Suplex but Myers powers out into a backdrop while still in the Butterfly Position and lands right on David's face- knocking him cold. Myers is awarded the match but refuses to accept it out of sportsmanship. This is like wrestling from another planet in every aspect. And I mean EVERY aspect. No hyperbole, no punches, no angles- just really fucked up matwork and triple the normal workrate. I need to fly to this planet and live there. I also think it is really odd that Davey

Boy Smith was hipped to all the mysteries and matskills of the Snakepit guys and never really used them in any of the matches I ever saw him in anywhere else. Sad really.

Jumbo Tsuruta/ Yoshiaki Yatsu vs. Dynamite Kid/ Davey Boy Smith- ALL JAPAN PRO WRESTLING (5/24/89)

(by DEAN RASMUSSEN)

More of the All Japan Classics from 1989 as I can't believe I've has THIS tape forever and never watched this match. Dynamite looks like Anton Levay with the cropped hair and the goatee. Yatsu also looks evil in his goatee I didn't read his autobiography so there's no self-admitted pattern of astounding and remorseless prick-like behaviour to gauge against. Plus I doubt that Dynamite Kid would start a wrestling promotion as cheerful sounding as Social Progress Wrestling Federation. Davey Boy and Yatsu start it off after a double shoulderblock by the Bulldogs. DBS makes with the headbutts and Yatsu hits the floor. Jumbo is concerned but doesn't go in the ring yet. Yatsu takes DBS to the mat and they end up at a stalemate as Dynamite scowls at them from the corner. Jumbo tags in and he and BDS do a lot of "Boy, Davey Sure Has Ingested Enough Steroids, Hasn't he?" spots where he powers out of the Jumbo Full Nelson. Dynamite tags in and hits the Snap Suplex on Jumbo and it fucking rules. Jumbo opts for the keylock into a Crucifix, but DK keeps bridging out until he escapes. DK tags in DBS and Jumbo works on the arm until DBS reverses it and starts working on Jumbo's arm. DK tags in and works on the arm some more. Jumbo HIGH KNEES TO OFFENSIVE TRANSITION and he and Yatsu bust up DBS real good. Yatsu has motherfucking GREAT punches and the corner slugs to the jaw get the crowd on their feet. DBS and Yatsu trade chops and DBS is selling it like a king- getting all pissed and bowing up like a redneck and everything. Dynamite comes in starts the proper assbeating of the irascable Yatsu, so Yatsu tags in Jumbo and starts SMASHING DK's head with forearms. DK tags out and he and DBS trade forearms and I'm starting to DEEPLY love this match. DBS runs into a Jumbo Size 15 and Stereo High Knees to the front and back of DBS are in full effect. Yatsu latches on a standing Figure Four and hits a powerslam to re-apply it when DBS escapes. DK makes the save the second time with assorted punches to Yatsu's face. DBS tags out and DK throws Yatsu onto the floor and into the rail. Jumbo looks concerned and throws Yatsu back in FUCKING MOTHERFUCKING FUCKING NAAASSSTY looking Harley Race Falling headbutt square on the face of Yatsu and I'm DEEPLY DEEPLY in love with this match. DBS tags in and works on Yatsu until Yatsu reverses a corner whip and then hits a Bulldog for two. DBS reverses being thrown into the ropes and does a Gorilla Slam to set Dynamite's Diving Headbutt from the top to Yatsu's stomach for two. Yatsu makes a comeback by hitting an Enzugiri and tags Jumbo who follows up with a super fat ass High Knee to DK mush. Jumbo takes some swats at DBS and piledrives DK for two. DBS makes the save and sends Jumbo out and then posting him once they both get to the floor. DBS slaps on a stump-puller armbar but Jumbo powers out and Irish Whips DBS into the corner. Jumbo charges, but DBS moves and Jumbo does the full-on Psicosis bump into the ringpost shoulderfirst. DK tags in and does a supernasty looking keylock. DBS tries the Anderson Brothers Body Slam While the Arm Is In A Hammer Lock but Jumbo pushes out and they go back to the arm. Yatsu finally breaks it up but DBS goes for the Lingering Vertical Slam. DK comes in and Lariats and Elbow Smashes Jumbo. DBS gets Jumbo into another Hammerlock and charges Jumbo's sholder into DK's head. Jumbo ducks at the last minute and

the Bulldogs knock noggins and Jumbo gets the flash pin. This match is fucking great. The ending is way too comical, but this match is fucking great. The story is pretty beautiful. Yatsu tries to take them on by himself and does a pretty good job until he is overwhelmed, but it took enough out of them for Jumbo to hold his own for a while. Then the Bulldogs got an opening and started working on the arm of Jumbo until it looked like Jumbo was finished because Yatsu is basically fried. Then the Booking God's said, "Give us a HILARIOUS ENDING to counteract all the hatred and stiffness..." and there you have it.

~!~

SINGLES GOING STEADY

~!~

GEMINI KID vs MICHAEL YAMAHA - TEXAS DEATHMATCH - CAROLINA WRESTLING FEDERATION (3/23/2002)

(by DEAN RASMUSSEN)

We alluded constantly to the Statmark Carolina Pimpin tape in the beloved and behated DEATH VALLEY DRIVER VIDEO REVIEW #135, but the Crown Jewel of the tape was never mentioned and I figured I would review it here because it is absolutely motherfucking fabulous Professional Wrestling done where God always wants it to happen-in Armouries in North Carolina. It's North Carolina so the crowd cheers Yamaha because he is a face and boos Gemini because he is a heel. The crowd is smart enough to set up half the psychology of the match so the actual wrestlers have free reign to make this as high tech as they want- and they pretty much get as much out of the Texas Death Match gimmick as anyone has a right to. You know the rules, after every pinfall, you have thirty seconds to answer the bell. Gemini Kid is a great heel, threatening to beat folks asses after the match is over but his main obstacle in the wrestling world is getting the crowd to get over the fact that he physically looks like that guy in the marketing department that always comes in asking for help with his laptop because he can't get his e-mail to work, except Gemini has far less upper-body development. Gemini convinces the crowd early of his ring credibility by doing things everyone in the crowd can't do (which is what ring credibility is- how is this person different than me sitting in the chairs at ringside, which is why Japan and the WWE love gigantic people- they automatically look different than those who paid to watch)- like an extended armdrag sequence capped off with a nasty bump to the floor. Yamaha is just as small, but he has the build that could be "polished" into WWE shape if the need ever came up. Gemini has the Hildebrandt Problem of being a really great wrestler without physical credibility- but the late 90s went a long way in changing fans perceptions of what they consider credible thus making room for Gemini Kid in 2002, as opposed to what Brian Hildebrandt experienced - being a ref when he wanted to be and was fine wrestler. The beauty of North Carolina is that if you are enough of a dick, they don't care what you look like. They just want somebody to beat the shit out of you. That makes the physical problems of Gemini Kid disappear. The first pinfall is out of the Every Texas Death Match Ever blueprint- the fall off something that would usually not be a pinfall: the toprope crossbody after two dropkick sequences, but you gotta build off something, so this is a good fall to set the pace. Yamaha tries to go back to highflying for a second pin by Gemini dropkicks his knee and starts wrenching Yamaha's knee with Twisting Kneedrop on the Knee things that made you first fall in love with Dean Malenko back in ECW.

He then does the Flair Kneebreaker Sequence because Gemini Kid motherfucking rules it. Yamaha gets a hope spot when he eludes a toprope kneedrop to his knee attempt by Gemini. Yamaha limps to the top and misses a splash - allowing Gemini to procure the STF and Yamaha taps out for the second fall. The fact that Yamaha escapes more injury by tapping is important in the psychology of the match later. Meanwhile Yamaha is selling his knee like a champ and Gemini is right back on it, kicking away. Yamaha gets a takedown and turns it into a Scorpion Deathlock and Gemini taps to escape. Yamaha is now selling the knee like a KING- making the facials of Face Desperation and the Carolina crowd responds. Selling connects with the audience. The selling tells the story that the crowd understands- Yamaha's knee is fuct and Gemini knows it. Gemini makes it to his feet at 28. Yamaha limps over and hits the Minoru Tanaka Jumping Roll into a Cross-Armbreaker but Gemini keeps his hands together and makes the ropes. Yamaha sells his knee while being thrown into the corner and Gemini goes for an Oklahoma Stampede that Yamaha reverses in mid-air into a Spinning DDT but Gemini kicks out at two. Yamaha punches him in the head and runs him into the ropes. Gemini reverses it and gets Yamaha in the Gorie Special that he takes into Mutoh's Calf Branding (Indian Deathlock With Bridging Facelock) for the fall- with Gemini refusing to release the hold to address the escaping the damage aspect- which is fucking MASTERFUL wrestling psychology. Yamaha is kingsized doing the facelike thing of struggling to his feet as fast as possible instead of using up his 30 seconds. Gemini is a great dickish heel so he swarms on his knee as soon as he is up. Yamaha fights out of suplex attempt and hits his own, heading to the toprope. Gemini catches him and hits the Superplex for three. Both sell the damage like there was a maniac firing buckshot into the ring from the crowd, but only Yamaha has to make it to his feet. Gee Star makes her presence known by bitchily nailing Yamaha in the knee with a chair while he is trying to make it to his feet and Gemini is holding the ref by the shirt, trying to get up. Neither make the thirty count which shouldn't matter because Gemini got the pin but they gloss over this for some reason, as I'm guessing the first kick out was the way it was supposed to be setting up to the thirty count. The Commissioner says over the PA that it's a Texas Death Match- there can be no Double Elimination. They both make it to their feet and the crowd is screeching. Gemini tries to set up the Lyger Driver with the butterfly underhook, but Yamaha lifts up and has Gemini in perfect position to just fucking CRUSH Gemini the a Reverse Gorie Bomb. Gemini sells corpselike and Yamaha makes it to his feet before collapsing again and thus wins this beautiful example of how fun a professional wrestling match should be. The selling in this was fucking awesome- as Gemini kid has shown that he has all the psychological aspects of wrestling down and has the even trickier Southern Heel aspects down, but Yamaha's selling was what made the match work as well as it did. This is beautiful. Track down Statmark and get this whole fucking tape.

Shane Douglas vs. Tully Blanchard - ECW "Double Tables" (2/4/95)
(by PHIL RIPPA)

I left this match off the last review because - well - I don't really like either of these guys. Especially Tully Blanchard in 1995. I also didn't mention that a lot of these matches where on the Double Tables show that had the RSPW convention on it. I didn't pay too much attention to the crowd to spot people - except the guy who looked way to much like Vampiro. The best was that this shows that Paul Heyman really hated the internet as he made all those suckers sit

through Douglas/Blanchard II. This isn't the 85 hour contest that people had to suffer through but at nine and a half minutes - there was plenty of suffering on my end. Tully is all like "I am a preacher now." and Shane is all "I am a teacher." and Tully is like "I got fired from the WWF" and Shane is all "So did I" and Tully is all "well, I got busted for the drugs", to which Shane is all "Bitch, please. Everyone's gotten fired from the WWF for drugs." Tully gets all know you didn't and tells Shane "I was in the 4 Horseman" and Shane is all "I hate Ric Flair and that's a shoot." Tully takes the moment to educate Shane on the fact that Shane was also a Dynamic Dude and a Filthy Animal. That makes Shane gets all Tell me you did not just say that?, a vein bulges he yells "SHUT UP BEFORE I JUMP ON YOU BITCH!" and it just goes downhill from there.

Toshiaki Kawada vs. Kenta Kobashi - ALL JAPAN PRO WRESTLING (7/1/89)

(by DEAN RASMUSSEN)

Kawada is still in full high-flyer mode in 89 and he is far more kenetic and spunky- as opposed to deliberate and stoic. Kobashi is barrel-chested and wide-eyed and only has one knee-brace. The start the match off trading knee bars.- with Kawada doing the fun harbinger of ass-stompings to come: the kicks to Kobashi's back to get out of said kneebar. Kawada backs him into a corner and brings tha leathah to the chest of Kobashi but Kobashi bulls him back out of the corner and starts working on Kawada's leg again. They do the mutual kneebars for a while until they spin around and around and around and hit the ropes like two alligators fighting over the same hunk of raw chicken. Kobashi goes back to the leg bar after the rope break and Kawada kits the ropes. Kawada is continually cut off by Kobashi- the final time with a Dragon Screw, but Kawada finally gets some effective kicks to the head and a spin kick and baseball slide. Kobashi hits the floor to set up El Kawada hitting the Running Piscada. Kobashi sells it more than he sold all of the Released Germans combined that he recieved in 1999. Kawada welcomes him into the ring with a big Brainbuster and some stomps on the back into a Romero Special. Kawada further reaches back into his lucha roots with the Senton. And then hits the German with a Bridge. Then they smack each other a lot until Kawada starts working on the leg. They run the ropes all fast with Kobashi getting a crescent kick at the end that he follows up with an Unreleased Somoan Slam with a Bridge. Kobashi does the fruity Catty Corner Crossbody Blocks and hits a fabulous German with a Bridge for two. Kawada comes back and hits a Front Spinning Crescent Savate Kick after Kobashi shoots him into the ropes. Kawada follows up with a Lariat and then Kawada seals it with a beautiful Dragon Suplex. This was a perfectly fine wrestling match and it was neat to see how much Kawada stopped doing when he adopted the Kawada The Guy Who Kicks You gimmick - but it also what is wrong with the whole Royal Road style: the entire match means nothing until the finishes kick in and the finishes have no relationship to anything prior in the match. I guess the Royal Road style produced so many great matches because they actually sold all the finishers for a while before the equation for victory got too preposterous. This is two midcarders so the finishers section doesn't take up 85 per cent of the match like it would later when they got promoted to the main event. It was a flawed style and it took all the inestimable psychological skills of Misawa and Kawada to make it viable.

EAGLE PRO CRUISERWEIGHT TOURNEY - 7/23/2000 - KAW*KAW vs Tomoya Adachi
(Zipang)

(by DEAN RASMUSSEN)

I am KAW-KAW! i am a little bird..... feel my axe-handles. fly as i throw you into the chairs.... must fight.... must fight poop must fight urge to poop in the ring.... i can wait i can wait. you adachi have the yellow suit of a canary. canaries are cowards and hardly worthy of even being eaten by the mighty kaw*kaw... i will crush your head with my thighs. adachi is more wily than the cowardly canary and uses his headstand his headstand his headstand to survive my massive thighs. awwk awwwwwwk awwwwk he is greabbing my head! he is grabbing and SQUEEZING my head! awwwwwwk awwwwk he will pay! he will pay with his life! i will first peck him with my head! i will peck him again! owwww owwie owwww! that hurts my head! ow ow.....i will stake him out in the corner branches and claw his face as i run and kick him! i am free! i am free now! watch me fly! watch me fly! i'm flying! ow adachi grabs my wings kicks me in the gizzard and tries to fly but lands on my plump succulent breast instead. i will beat him with my wings. BEATING BEATING! i will fly off the corner branches and claw him with my talons as i swoopp on him. i will swoop again! awwwwk awwwwk he moved! he moved! he's grabbin my giblets! he's grabbing my giblets! he's grabbing my giblets! i have lost. i have lost i have lost! i will always hate adachi! i will always hate adachi! i will always always always always always always always always hate adachi! i will always hate adachi!

Masa Chono vs. Dave Sullivan - WCW Pro (Probably sometime in 1995)

(by PHIL RIPPA)

Its 7 am. I am scanning the perm tapes, trying to find the one that has Davey Boy Smith vs. Bret Hart from In Your House on it. (I never found it so the blood bath will have to wait.) I find this instead. Masa Chono vs. EVAD FUCKING SULLIVAN. This was that point in WCW history, where Sonny Ono was bringing in all the New Japan guys to "invade" World Championship Wrestling. Of course, Ono thought the best way to do this was to harass Scott Hudson and have all his guys wrestle on the Pro. Granted, some truly great forgotten matches happened because of this (Liger vs. Barry Houston, Kanemoto vs. Scott (or was it Steve) Armstrong) but you get lots of the Tenzan wrestled the Gambler???? moments. Dean is suitably pissed because a) I know have the tape and b) this isn't on streaming video somewhere. Chono is sporting the "I am getting paid in cash for this" look. Me, being the optomist (HA!), believes that if anyone from New Japan truly knows how to work the US Pro suck style, it is Chono. He lays into Sullivan a bunch - especially on the headbutts out of the knucklock. The chops make Sullivan's chest dance like Savion Glover. Sullivan has this weird sell where he just flails his arms about like he is trying to knock the feasting knats off his festering carcass. I mark out hardcore for the Mafia Kick and then nearly lose my shit as Chono has to sell a full nelson. Chono even does the full-on "I need to take a breather because the face is kicking my ass". If this was pop-up video, I think that a bubble would contain the following words: "During the filming of this match, Masa Chono thought that he also had to wait for Kevin Sullivan to run in and jab him with a knife' This reaches so many different levels of bizarre that one can not possibly grasp it all in one sitting. I was actually sad to see Chono lock in the STF because I was beginning to believe that Chono was going to have to sell an eye poke and then pet Sullivan's rabbit.

NEXT TIME (Which could be in a couple of hours): Wrestling! Wrestling! and more Wrestling!

Dean and Phil saying "Get the FUCK off our lawns"